SPECIAL SERIES 4 PREVIEW!

ROBOT WARS

ROBOT WARS MAGAZINE

4TH

LET THE WARS BEGIN!

NEW TEAMS! NEW HOUSE BOT!
NEW SIR CHROMALOT!

£1·50 ISSUE 6
OCTOBER 2000
BBC
10>
9 771469 229004

ROBOT WARS

ISSUE 05 / OCTOBER 2000

WHAT'S IN RWM THIS MONTH?

04 your **series 4** preview
08 the **refbot** files
10 meet the **crew** and see what they **do**
12 news from the **club**
the **a-z of robots** continues
14 all-new **house robots** poster
17 win **digi and dino** stuff
18 dance class with **sir chromalot**
20 were you at **robot mayhem?**
22 **sir killalot** turns pop star
24 new jobs for the **house bots**
rw's **derek f** on the spot
26 uh-oh, it's **dr zulu**
28 pin-up **refbot**

RWM@BBC.CO.UK

EDITOR Mike Collier
ART EDITOR Simon Oliver
SUB-EDITOR/WRITER David Hayles
DESIGNERS Steve Dobson, Sam Bennett
PICTURE RESEARCHER Emma Peel
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Kelly Austin
ADVERTISING Theresa Davies 020 8433 3288
MARKETING EXECUTIVE Siobhan Galvin 020 8433 3310
MARKETING MANAGER Helen Nothard
MARKETING ASSISTANT Ruth Rowntree 020 8433 3963
PRODUCTION Morag Gillett, Jo Beattie, Sarah Hovell
CIRCULATION MANAGER Simon Young
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Alfie Lewis
PUBLISHER Lindsaye Fox
EDITOR, BOYS' MAGAZINES Jason Loborik
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, FAMILY GROUP Nicky Smith
DIRECTOR, FAMILY GROUP [UK REGION] Gillian Laskier
MANAGING DIRECTOR, BBC WORLDWIDE [UK REGION] Peter Teague
COMPETITION ENQUIRIES 0208 433 3963
CONTRIBUTORS Nathan Martin, Jacques Gauthier, Sam Bailey, Ben Lewis, Davey Moore
PHOTOGRAPHY Chris Capstick, John Green
THANKS The RW Series 4 crew, Craig Charles, Polydor Records, Tom Gutteridge, Andy Collins

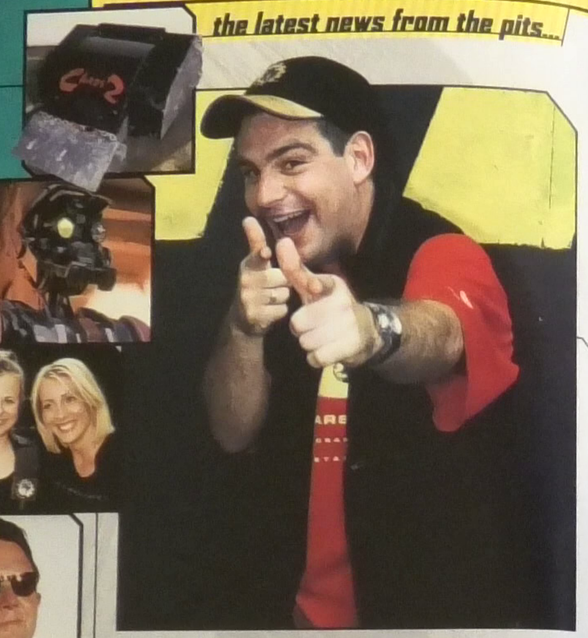
Robot Wars is a trademark of Robot Wars, LLC. The Robot Wars television series is produced by TV21, a division of Mentorn Barraclough Carey Productions Ltd, in association with Robot Wars, LLC for BBC Television. Rattlin, Dead Metal, Sgt Bash, Sir Killalot and Shunt are designs and trademarks of the BBC and used under licence. Magazine © BBC Worldwide Ltd 2000. Robot Wars Magazine is published every month by BBC Magazines, a division of BBC Worldwide Publishing. BBC Worldwide Ltd (Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT). Colour origination by Pace Colour, Southampton. Printing by Polestar Magazines (Guildfiesle) Ltd. A member of the British Printing Company Ltd. UK subscription rate: £18.00 for 12 issues; Europe/Eire £26.00 for 12 issues, rest of world £36.00 for 12 issues.

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES: Call (01795) 414716 or write to BBC ROBOT WARS MAGAZINE Subscriptions, PO Box 279, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8DF. This magazine can be recycled for use in newspapers or packaging – please dispose of it at your local wastepaper collection point. Robot Wars Magazine text is printed on 70gsm Valvitop, produced in Germany by Hannell. It is elemental chlorine-free and coated with china clay from the UK and calcium carbonate from Europe. Cover is printed on 170gsm Invoy Art, produced in Austria by Seppi Leykam. It is chlorine-free and coated with china clay from UK and calcium carbonate from Europe. BBC Magazines is working to ensure that all its paper is produced without the use of chlorine and is sourced from well managed forests (along the lines laid down by the Forest Stewardship Council).

BBC

mbc mentorn barraclough carey

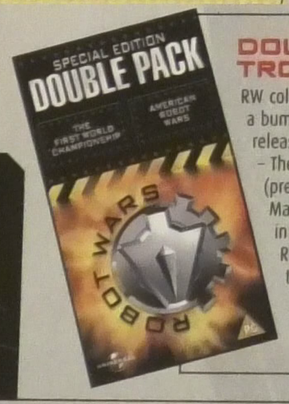
the latest news from the pits...



HANDY ANDY
ANOTHER NEW PRESENTER?

This is Andy Collins, who took on Craig Charles' role during the RW live event, Robot Mayhem. Andy did a great job, but presenting three shows a day for ten days meant that by the end he'd nearly lost his voice. "I've got through fifteen packets of Tunes," he croaked, "and they won't be very pleased when I turn up for my next job and I can't speak!"

...and from around the world



DOUBLE TROUBLE

RW collectors get ready – a bumper video pack is being released. It contains two tapes – The First World Championship (previously released in March), and for the first time in UK shops, an American Robot Wars show, tracing the origins of RW in the USA! The double pack goes on sale on 2nd October, priced £9.99.

THE WORLD IS BOT ENOUGH

The new book, 'Robo Sapiens – Evolution Of A New Species', has loads of photos of all manner of robots by prize winning snapper Peter Menzel. There are walkers, talkers, electronic eyes to use as spies, robots with guns, robots for fun, bot fights and even bots that take flight. Robo Sapiens is published by the MIT Press for £19.95, humanoid!

Pic courtesy Peter Menzel

SAFETY WARNING!

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BUILD OR OPERATE A ROBOT WITHOUT FIRST JOINING THE RW CLUB AND GETTING THEIR SAFETY GUIDELINES. SEE PAGE 12 FOR DETAILS OF HOW TO JOIN!

robot report

CHRIS ATTACKS!

Just so you know that people really DO win our fantastic competitions, here's Christian Bridge, the lucky reader who won our Issue 3 competition to join the Panic Attack team for Series 4. He's pictured with fellow team-member Michael Davies and Julia Reed. Find out what he thought of the experience next month.

HOUSE MOUSE

Recognise this cruel and evil-looking house robot? Probably not, seeing as The Mouse was only used in the pilot episode of Robot Wars. It has since become a bit of a mascot for the show's technical crew, and was on display at Robot Mayhem (see p20). Perhaps it was for the best that The Mouse never featured in the full TV show – after all, what might have happened if it came up against Pussycat? There again, we bet it wouldn't have minded being in the arena with Big Cheese and would have got on very well with Rattus Rattus!

SPIDER'S WEBMASTER

Could this be the future of Robot Wars? Adam Clark's latest invention is 'Spiderbot'. You might know Adam as the RW webmaster. He has plans to turn it into a larger walking (or scuttling) robot, maybe in time for Series 5. In the meantime he'll just have to make do scaring kids with it!

CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING

Dr Stuart Wilkinson at the University Of South Florida has invented a 'gastrobot' nicknamed 'Chew Chew' because of its train-like looks, that actually uses food for fuel. Chew Chew can convert the chemical energy in din-dins into electricity. You might have read about a 'flesh eating robot' in the papers, but when RWM contacted Dr Wilkinson, he put the record straight: "My gastrobot does not eat meat! It eats only sugar cubes right now, will drink orange juice shortly, and may eat vegetation eventually."

Pic courtesy Stuart Wilkinson

BIGGER & BETTER

Mad, totally mad! That's the best way of summing up the last few weeks here at RWM central. First, we were checking out the hopefuls at Robot Mayhem and then we were straight into the Fourth Wars. Trust me, these will be the best wars ever. It's action from start to finish with a bigger variety of bots and battles than you could ever dream of, so make sure you fill in your wallchart at the end of each and every show. Of course, there's also a brand new house robot, Refbot, to look out for. I finally got to meet him in the arena, and as you can see, he didn't waste any time showing me his fancy moves!

THE EDITOR

DO'S & DONT'S
FOR ROBOTEERS

1 DO practice saying "Our robot is powered by two 24 volt motors with a kevlar shell and pneumatic weapon." Even if it's not.

2 DO put a furry mascot on your robot – when it catches fire, the audience will go "Aaah" and be on your side.

3 DO make your team wear wacky costumes to get noticed by the television cameras.

4 DON'T say "Where's Phillipa?" to Julia Reed.

5 DO wander into the background whenever Julia is filming and pretend you're talking about robots and tactics.

6 DON'T tug Craig by the sleeve and shout "Go on, do one of your funny rhymes, they crack me up!"

7 DO say "I was very lucky" when you win a fight, even though you are thinking "Ha ha, the other team was rubbish!"

8 DON'T lose to Mortis.

9 DON'T say "It's not fair!" when you lose. Say "I lost the transmitter signal."

10 DO say "I'll be back next year," when you leave. **DON'T** say "I'm going to duff those flippin' judges up!"

THE GOOD, THE MAD, AND THE UGLY

SERIES 4

OLD FAVOURITES

familiar faces from past wars

RAZER

Buoyed up by their world championship win, Vinnie Blood and team are champing at the bit to get into the arena and chew, chomp and crush. Team Razer are really motivated and feel they have a point to prove.

PREDICTION: ANYTHING LESS THAN GETTING TO THE FINAL WILL BE DISAPPOINTING

BEHEMOTH

As detailed in last issue's profile, the Behemoth team is on peak form with a robot unlike any other. But let's hope the boys don't let the celebrity status of being RWM stars go to their heads!

PREDICTION: HEAT WINNER BUT MIGHT GET FLIPPED

PUSSYCAT

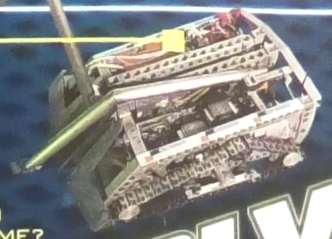
This fierce, frightening and oddly-shaped contender is going to prove a formidable feline foe. Many of the other roboteers really respect the Gloucester-based robot's clever design and driving. A lot will depend on how effective its new saw is.

PREDICTION: SHOULD CLAW ITS WAY INTO THE FINAL BY A WHISKER

MORTIS

Love 'em or hate 'em, you have to respect the fact that they come back year after year and think they're gonna win. If you listen to them talking about how brilliant their robot is, it's hard to believe they could ever have lost a single battle!

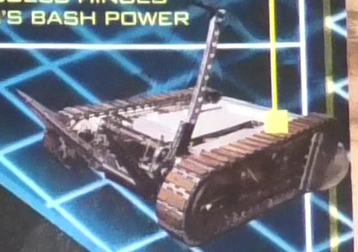
PREDICTION: IT LOOKS GREAT... BUT CAN IT GO THE DISTANCE THIS TIME?



SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

Fast and unflippable, show veterans Charles Binns and the Jeffrey brothers have snazzed up their killer robot with a transparent polycarbonate casing and forceful pick-axe. That should add some attacking power to a set-up that was always able to absorb a lot of punishment.

PREDICTION: SUCCESS HINGES ON NEW WEAPON'S BASH POWER



DISCO INFERNO

Its creators claim that DI was actually the first spinning disc type weapon – but Hypno-Disc built their machine faster. It would be great to see the two spinners up against each other!

PREDICTION: VERY WELL ENGINEERED, SHOULD DANCE THROUGH THE FIRST HEAT

CRUSADER 2

This nifty little robot only appeared in Pinball in the last series. It's low, unflippable and has a 16-bit telemetry system like a Formula 1 racing car so the team can analyse its performance.

PREDICTION: WILL UPSET AT LEAST ONE SEED

WHO THE FLIP ARE YOU?

brand new robots to keep and eye out for

PREDATOR

Predator turned heads at Robot Mayhem because of its shiny resemblance to Sir Killalot. But can it match Sir K for destructive power? Probably not, seeing as its jaws are operated by a motor from a dancing doll!

PREDICTION: SIR KILLALOT DOES NOT LIKE BEING COPIED...

CHAOS 2

The Series 3 champ is back to try to become the first robot to ever retain its title. Given its amazing live displays at Robot Mayhem, expect to see some opponents chucked clean out of the arena.

PREDICTION: CERTAIN TO GRACE THE ARENA FOR THE FINAL ONCE AGAIN

IMPROVERS

the robots that are back – and better

STEG 2

Though it has a similar name, Steg 2 is a much more sophisticated robot than Steg-O-Saw-Us, its predecessor. Steg relied on pushing power and a tough steel shell. Strong Steg 2 has lightweight polycarbonate panels and a brand new rear flipper capable of shifting 100kg. How do they know? They flipped Steg-O-Saw-Us with it!
PREDICTION: WILL MAKE THE SEMIS AT THE VERY LEAST

BULLDOG BREED 2

The dodgy circular saws on the front have been replaced with a flipper, making BB2 look more than a little bit like Chaos 2. Nice new paint job, too! Ruff respect.
PREDICTION: MAY MAKE THE SEMI-FINALS

STINGER

Don't be fooled by its low seeding at number 30. Stinger has a lot of roboteers very, very worried. Compact, powerful and unflippable, expect it to be a major force in the competition.
PREDICTION: COULD SPRING A MAJOR SURPRISE

ROBOCHICKEN

When it appeared at Robot Mayhem, we couldn't stop laughing for a week. Probably the funniest, wackiest robot ever to compete on Robot Wars. Robochicken is a star, but will it rule the roost, or get a good stuffing?
PREDICTION: EXPECT A PLUCKY DISPLAY FROM THIS FEATHERWEIGHT

TERRORBULL

A great-looking, Yorkshire-bred bot with a surprisingly good flipping movement. Its horns are made of real farm equipment, so if this mad cow gets going, it should be udderly ace!
PREDICTION: PROBABLY ON ITS WAY TO THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

DISTRUCT-A-BUBBLE

Someone please tell us they are joking. They're not? Crikey! Distruct-A-Bubble looks about as dangerous as a cowardly koala only doesn't move as fast. Imagine a winking lampshade on wheels and you're halfway there.
PREDICTION: BIG BUBBLE TROUBLE

THE WEIRDOS

even if they don't win, they'll entertain us!

SERIES 4

CERBERUS

One of the best-looking robots of the last series has been deliberately dressed-down. "We thought it looked too wussy," says team captain Theo. Gone is the shiny titanium, replaced by a grainy kevlar body and weapon. Not as pretty, but a lot more dangerous.
PREDICTION: BETTER, BUT STILL NOT NEARLY ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO PROGRESS

HYPNO-DISC

Pre-series testing proved that the new, more steeply-sided weapon is both faster and more destructive than the old one. That's a terrifying prospect for anyone up against it. Hope they have plenty of brooms at the ready in the arena.
PREDICTION: WE THINK IT WILL GO ALL THE WAY

MAJOR TOM

Basically, a cross between a water butt and a gumball machine with Peter Perfect at the wheel and a union jack paint job. We reckon Shunt will want to get in there first!
PREDICTION: DENTS, DENTS AND PLENTY MORE DENTS

BANSHEE

Team Banshee entered as Shark Attack last year and got trashed. Banshee's cape spins at 200 revolutions per minute, but don't expect that to make much difference. Rumours say the head is based on a team member's mother-in-law!
PREDICTION: IF THIS UGLY CRITTER KEEPS ITS HEAD ON, IT'LL BE A MIRACLE

HUGH MANOID RETURNS

the man who hates robot wars has one final rant!

I've just seen a list of the robots for Series 4 and have one question – WHY CAN'T ROBOTEERS SPELL?

Terror-bull is TERRIBLE. I don't want to TALK about Small Torque. Knightmare is giving me a NIGHTMARE just thinking about it. Razer and Raizer Blade should cut it out – with a RAZOR.

Either no roboteers took any notice during English lessons or they think they are 'wacky'. THEY'RE NOT. Wheely Big Cheese should be renamed Really Bad Joke and the only place I'd like to see Kronic The Wedgehog is squashed in the middle of the M25! The winner of this awful show should get a dictionary as the prize, so they can learn some speling in thyme for next yerr. My name is real, by the way.

there'll be no dirty fighting in Series 4 if Refbot has his way!

ROBOT LAWS

REFBOT

ORIGIN

The programme makers decided that for Series 4 they needed a house robot who was impartial to what was happening in the arena, after several unexpected scraps between contestant bots and house robots in Series 3. The BBC Visual Effects Unit built Refbot at short notice and he made his first appearance at Robot Mayhem on July 24, 2000.

SPECIFICATIONS

NAME	REFBOT
SPEED	13 KM/H
LENGTH	145 CM
WIDTH	110 CM
HEIGHT	120 CM
POWER	24 VOLT DRIVE

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT
FIRE EXTINGUISHER, GRABBING ARM

MAIN TASKS
KEEP FIGHTS FLOWING, CLEAR ARENA AFTER BATTLES, CONTROL FIRES

ARTICULATED HEAD

Head moves up and down and side-to-side. This gives Refbot human appeal and lets viewers see where his attention is focussed. In the future, he may even be equipped to speak.

GRABBING HAND

Used to drag immobilised robots to the arena exits, or pull robots apart if they are stuck in clinches.

FRONT PLOUGH

Lets Refbot separate robots if they are locked together. Particularly useful for freeing robots that may have become stuck against the arena wall.

OUTFIT

Striped black and white top and cap as worn by most American-style sports referees.

REAR SCOOPS

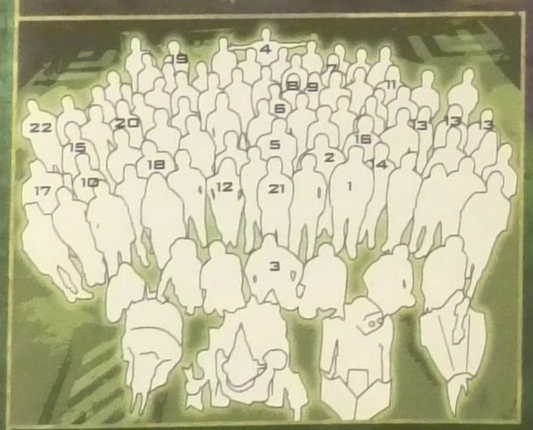
These are ctually the soles of Refbot's feet (he is kneeling down like a wrestling referee). Used to shove immobilised contestant bots out of the arena, to speed up changeovers and save time between battles.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Attached to a carbon dioxide cannister on his back, this allows Refbot to put out fires, or at least keep the blaze under control until the full fire crew arrives.

SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE SHOW

1	BILL HOBBINS Series Producer
2	STUART MACDONALD Series Director
3	CHRIS REYNOLDS House Robot Supervisor
4	"STICKY" Floor Manager
5	DEREK FOXWELL Senior Technical Consultant
6	DES STEWART Health & Safety
7	MAT IRVINE Technical Consultant
8	ROS DAVIDSON Unit Manager
9	JO CLEMENT Production Manager
10	KATIE WADE Production Co-ordinator
11	JULIA REED Presenter
12	MARY-JANE EVANS Associate Producer
13	NOEL SHARKEY, MARTIN SMITH, MYRA WILSON Judges
14	VAL FOXWELL Transmitter Control
15	BERNIE DAVIS Lighting Designer
16	JAKE CORNISH 2nd Unit Cameraman
17	PAUL DUFF Set Construction Manager
18	STEVE WEBSTER Special Effects
19	GREG ADE Sound Technician
20	TONY DENHAM Studio Security
21	TOM REED Studio Runner
22	PETER EDWARDS Fire Officer



KEY

WHO DOES WHAT?

ever wondered how many people it takes to get rw onto your screen? here's the answer

ROBOT WARS CLUB

LONDON W1P 6TG TEL 020 7323 9435

NEW, IMPROVED WEBSITE

PHILIPPA'S RETURN!

During the filming of Series 4, Philippa Forrester visited the set to check up on how new presenter Julia Reed was getting on, and to wish her luck. Philippa also filmed a link where she passed over the presenting honours.

"It must be quite nerve-wracking for her – I don't envy her!" Philippa told us. What tips would she give her to deal with the roboteers? "Have fun. If you have a good time then everyone else has a good time and it shows."

Philippa and Jules hit it off

The website for all your robot needs

A full list of battles and heats will be posted on the website throughout the series, as well as updated robot stats. There are also plans to add a special Backroom section for members only, and eventually to have exclusive 'robocam' footage, so make sure you check out **www.robotwars.co.uk** regularly!

WARS OF THE WORLD

Is there no stopping Robot Wars? It is now being shown in Sweden and the US, and will soon be seen Germany, Holland, Italy, Poland and Taiwan. The message boards on the official RW website are hotting up, with comments like "Meinen liebsen robot ist Hypnodisc – ist is sehr gut." (German for "My favourite robot is Hypno-Disc – it is very good"). Who said RWM wasn't educational?

JOIN US!

Fill out the form below to become a member of the Robot Wars Club and send it to the address at the top of the page. For £12.95 per year you'll get:

- REGULAR CLUB NEWSLETTER
- METALLIC ROBOT WARS BADGE
- PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP CARD
- HISTORY OF THE 3RD WARS VIDEO
- DISCOUNTS ON RW MERCHANDISE

For club membership enquiries, please do not contact Robot Wars Magazine

I want to join the Robot Wars Club ☐ I am interested in building a robot ☐

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £12.95 made payable to Robot Wars.

Or pay by credit card (Visa or MasterCard). Please indicate your chosen method of payment: Cheque/Postal Order ☐ Credit Card ☐

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms and initials) .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Daytime phone number .....

Card number .....

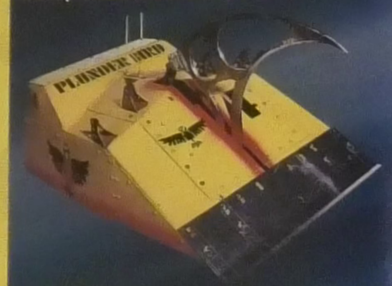
Valid from ..... Expiry date .....

Signature ..... Date .....

a of z CONTESTANT ROBOTS

p is for PLUNDERBIRD

In Series 3, the International Wreck Crew made our eardrums ache with their Plunderbird Rap. Be prepared for more noise in Series 4 – the team are planning to arrive for filming with their new robot Plunderbird, in a Chinook helicopter! Keep the earplugs handy.



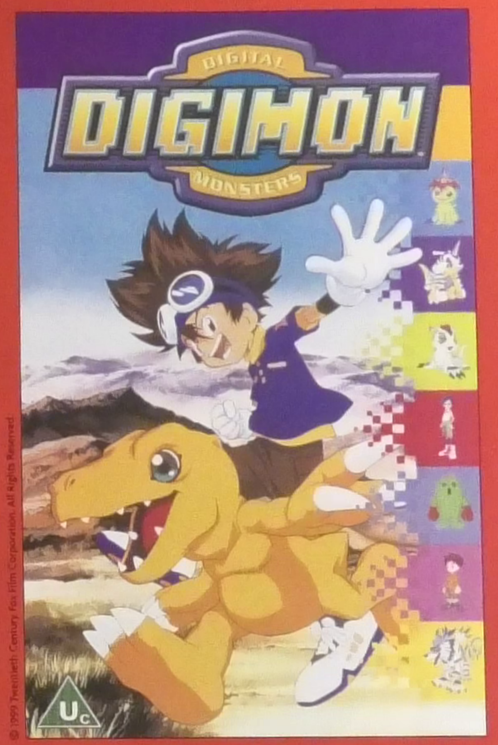
q is for QUALIFIERS

For the first series of RW it was almost a case of "Got a robot? You're in!" These days though, it's so popular that most robots have to win several qualifying battles to earn their place.

r is for RAZER

If they're asked to pick the best-looking robot in RW history, most people go for Razer, and it's not hard to see why. That shiny silver colour, the curve of the claw, the wicked-looking wings that sprout out – we're coming over all funny just thinking about it!

Free trading card
when you buy Digimon



£8.99 on video

It's on the cards.

WOOLWORTHS
WELL WORTH IT

Subject to availability. While stocks last.

DEAD METAL
FRONT
SIDE
BACK
MATILDA
FRONT
SIDE
BACK
SIR KILLALOT
FRONT
SIDE
BACK
REFBOT
FRONT
SIDE
BACK
SGT BASH
FRONT
SIDE
BACK
SHUNT
FRONT
SIDE
BACK
SERIES 4 HOUSE ROBOTS
ROBOT WARS

ROBOT WARS™

BBC

SOON TO BE RELEASED

AVAILABLE FROM 27TH OCTOBER IN STORES NEAR YOU

LOGISTIX KIDS RETAIL

ROBOT WARS IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF ROBOT WARS LLC. ROBOT WARS LOGO © ROBOT WARS LLC 1996. DEAD METAL, MATILDA, SERGEANT BASH, SHUNT, AND SIR KILLALOT ARE DESIGNS AND TRADEMARKS OF THE BBC. © BBC 1998. LICENSED BY BBC WORLDWIDE LTD. ROBOT WARS IS PRODUCED BY MENTORN BARRACLOUGH CAREY PRODUCTIONS LTD TRADING AS TV211 FOR BBC TELEVISION.

LET THE ZAURS BEGIN!

Did you think dinosaurs were extinct? Think again. This breed of Dinozaurs transform from prehistoric creatures into armoured fighting machines in the blink of an eye. Why? Well, someone's got to stop the evil aliens draining earth of life, haven't they?

Fancy getting hold of on some these hot new toys? 1 winner will receive a complete set of Transforming Dinozaur action figures and a set of battling figures. 15 runners-up will get an action figure and video. For your chance to win, just answer the following question:

HOW MANY HORNS DID A TRICERATOPS HAVE?

CALL THE COMPETITION HOTLINE* ON 0901 111 0704

DIGI THIS!

Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment and Puffin books are giving you the chance to win a brilliant selection of the latest Digimon goodies. Ten winners will receive the video Digimon: Volume 1, as well as the Official Character Guide, storybook, activity book, stickers and tattoos (all out to buy now).

For your chance to win one of 10 sets of Digimon books and videos, just answer the following question:

WHICH ONE OF THESE IS AN EVIL DIGIMON?

A) NASTYMON B) DEVIMON C) NICKIMON

CALL THE COMPETITION HOTLINE* ON 0901 111 0701

Or, send your competition answers on a postcard (to arrive no later than 27 October 2000) to:

ROBOT WARS MAGAZINE COMPETITIONS, PO BOX 114, LEATHERHEAD, SURREY KT22 9DG

Robot Wars Magazine Competition Rules. Robot Wars Magazine Competitions, PO Box 114, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 9DG. RWM competitions are open to residents of the UK, EIRE and the Channel Islands, except employees of the BBC, RWM printers, Robot Wars programme makers and anyone else connected with the competitions and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing date. No purchase necessary. No responsibilty can be accepted for entries lost or damaged in the post. Prizes are subject to availability. If, in circumstances beyond our control, the prize offered is unavailable, an alternative and equivalent prize will be sought. All entrants are bound by the rules. RWM will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and addresses will be available on request. *Calls cost no more than 25p. Please get permission from the bill payer before ringing.

Chrome Rangers

the smart sir chromalot boys are back for series 4, with an improved robot... and someone else to do the dancing!

Last year you guys turned up in a Rolls-Royce. How do you plan to top that this year?
Steve Merrick You might have noticed we're surrounded by dancing girls. They're called 'The Chromettes'.
Dave Whitehead They've been rehearsing a special routine for the last few weeks.
SM The Rolls Royce seemed to go down really well last year. When we got a call saying we'd been seeded into Series IV, we thought we needed to top the Rolls Royce, but what could we do? My sister-in-law runs the dance troupe, which is useful!

Didn't you want to keep dancing?
SM Whatever it took, we were not going to do the dancing! Last year, it was a joke really – 15 minutes before we went on, they said, "We need you to do a dance routine," and we're three big guys. We can't dance – it's very obvious that we can't, but we had a go. But this year, we've got The Chromettes!

"What's tacky, what's CLASSY?"

Do you get nervous when you appear on the show?
SM I think it'll be a bit easier from now on. Having done it last year, we know what to expect. You are nervous and you're worried – is everything going to work? Is everything going do what it should do? But with the crowd going mad and everything happening, it's an adrenalin rush and it goes by really quickly.

And The Chromettes will be able to give you a cheer as well.
SM It's nice to have a good bit of support. Chromalot is one of those robots you either love or hate. The people that do love it really cheer. But we can take a bit of flak, that's what it's all about.

Do you think any other team matches you for attitude?
SM I haven't seen anyone, and I hope it stays like that. We like the fact that we are so different. If someone else starts to do it, I think it would take the edge off it. Where do you draw the line, what becomes tacky, what becomes classy?

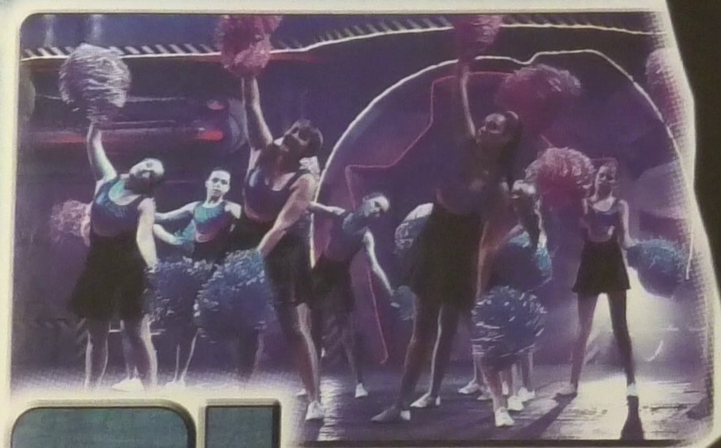
"We can take FLAK!"

What about the Plunderbird team?
DW Their singing is worse than our dancing!
SM Robot Wars Magazine has suggested a grudge match – if that happened, that would be fantastic.

Your robot looks very different this year.
SM It's got a big drill on it now which can do some serious damage.

What's the thing on top? It looks like an umbrella.
SM It's our self-righting mechanism. The legs extend and it stands up again. It's quite impressive.

What are your chances this series? Do you think you can win it?
SM There are some very good robots this year, there's no doubt about that. We'll give it our best shot, though. And if we do get knocked out, we could always use Sir Chromalot as a sunshade in a beer garden!

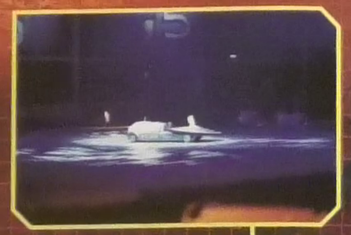


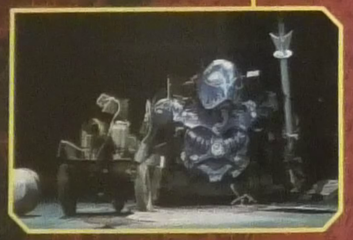
Thousands of fans turned up to Robot Mayhem, the first ever RW live event – but what did they see?

LIVE AND FLIPPING!

THE EXHIBITION

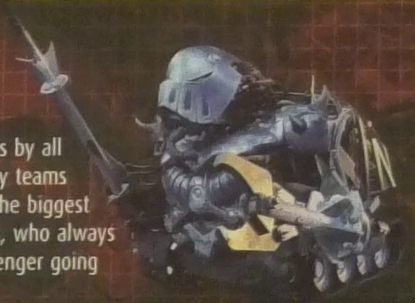
In the huge exhibition hall, spectators could get a close-up look at house robot replicas and meet some of the most famous teams to compete in the last few years.
There was also a special RW 'museum' with props from the past like the original judges' table (made from a Harrier jump jet wing), rubber robot moulds and the very first house robot, The Mouse.

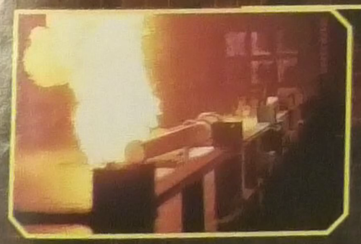




THE DEMONSTRATIONS

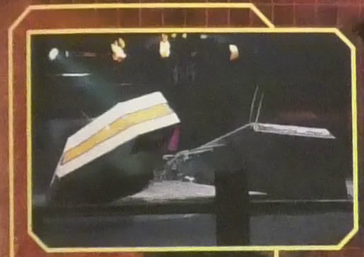
As well as the fights, the audience got to see the first appearance of Refbot, (to the 'Match Of The Day' theme), demonstrations by all the house robots and stunning star turns by teams including Razer, Chaos 2 and Hypno-Disc. The biggest highlight was the appearance of Sir Killalot, who always ended the show by totally trashing a challenger going by the very scary name of 'Teddybot'.

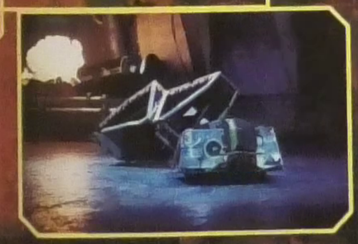




THE BATTLES

During each live show there were six fights. Hundreds of brand new robot hopefuls turned up, and during the two week live event more metal was mangled than at a tin can crushers' convention. That's because the fighting wasn't just for fun – Robot Mayhem was used as a qualifying tournament to decide which 64 bots went through to join the 32 seeded robots in the actual TV series.





THE HIGHLIGHTS

LITTLE FLY v MILLENNIUM BUG
Millennium Bug is probably the best 'walker' RW has ever seen. Despite losing a leg, it carried on right until the end.

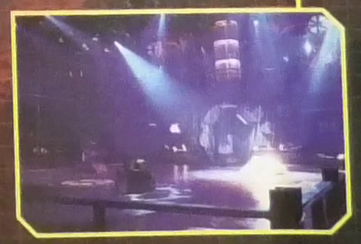
INVERTABRAT v KNIGHTMARE
Both teams tried every trick in the book to win. The crowd liked them so much, they both qualified!

NECROMANCER v ROBOCHICKEN
Robochicken was hilarous with its 'evil pecking action' and 'demon tail flipper'. The crowd made it clear they felt like chicken that night!

DEMOLISHER v FIRESTARTER
Demolisher (right) was tiny, so everyone cheered as it whizzed around Firestarter, ramming it. And it won!

THE FUTURE

Producer Bill Rudgard, responsible for the mammoth task of organising Robot Mayhem, reckons it will only be a matter of time before a mobile arena will be touring not just UK cities, but around Europe. "I want to take it to Paris and Bonn – this live event is just a warm-up," he says. "It was all an experiment, but it's been fantastic, and the audience reaction has been overwhelming."
So, what did people like the best?
"Teddybot," Bill says."I came up with the idea, Derek Foxwell built it, then George Francis had to fix it!"
Looks like we haven't seen the last of Teddybot then...



David Hayles visits the set of the RW pop video and meets Sir K's new girlfriend

SMASH HITS!

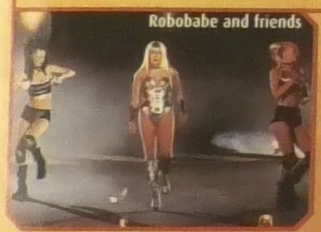
In a huge film studio near St Albans, directors, producers and technicians huddle round a monitor. Onscreen, three dancers in robo-gear wait for their cue among dry ice and flames. All eyes are on the girl in the middle, Robobabe. She's Sir Killalot's singing partner on the new Robot Wars CD. The music blasts from the speakers and Robobabe comes alive.

"This is terrific, she's just right," says RW executive producer Tom Gutteridge. "This video is going to go everywhere – MTV, BBC, ITV, the web..."

OLD RED EYES

Sir K is wheeled in by Chris Reynolds, head of special effects. Chris applies Sir K's make-up – blue and silver paint. Then, the fearsome one does his trademark spin. Later, he will chase a mad scientist down a corridor.

It's time to find out about the mysterious Robobabe. Who is she, where does she come from, and – ulp – is she human? Just as I start talking to her, two of the crew whisk her away. Later on, I find Robobabe's number among my notes. I reach for the phone, then decide against it. Afer all, if Sir K found out, it might be ME being chased down a corridor!


Robobabe and friends

"I'm ready for my solo!"

Chris clips Sir K's nails

THE ROBOT WARS SINGLE IS RELEASED ON POLYDOR RECORDS AT THE END OF OCTOBER

ONLY 99p

OUT NOW

THE NO.1 MAG FOR BOYS!

PLUS FREE PENCIL TIN

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE 11 OCTOBER:

POKEMON · WWF WRESTLING
HOW TO DRAW DEAD METAL
DINOSAUR · THE MOVIE

PLUS FREE INFLATABLE ALIEN!

THE FLINTSTONES™

New Sticker and Activity Books OUT NOW!

AVAILABLE AT ALL GOOD RETAILERS

BBC

THE FLINTSTONES and all related characters and elements are trademarks of Hanna-Barbera © 2000

what did the house bots do while they were off-screen? we came up with a few ideas for them to earn their keep...

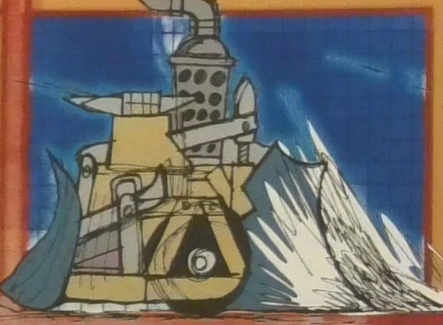
OCCUPATION: ROBOT

DEAD METAL

DM is a bit of an oddball, so it's no surprise that he could turn his hand (or should that be 'claw'?) to some truly wacky jobs. In an emergency, he could be wheeled out as an **ice hockey goal**, or he could help people get at their jam as a **lid loosener**. With his mighty steel jaws, he'd make one heck of a **nutcracker**, too. In the end, though, his evil temper and desire to annoy everyone mean there's only one job we'd give him – a **wheel-clamper**!

SHUNT

Shunt's industrial-style looks and hydraulic axe make him a natural for any number of tough jobs such as **demolition site clearer-upper**, **railway engine** or **snowplough**. But it would be more fun to see him earning his wages as an **insect skateboard ramp**, **kebab delivery service** (with his axe as a skewer) or heavy metal **metronome**!



SGT BASH

The Sarge's unique flamethrower opens up lots of employment possibilities the other house bots don't have. For instance, he would be very handy in the kitchen as a **food defroster**, **steak sizzler** and **marshmallow toaster**. Then he could get rid of any leftovers by becoming a **rubbish incinerator**. And he'd be good for interior decorating – you could use him as a brilliant **paint stripper**!

MATILDA

As we all know, Matilda is a gentle, caring type of soul, so would make a great **nanny for armidillos** or **museum guide**. Her horns could turn her into an excellent **doughnut hole maker** or **Christmas decoration holder**, while in the garage, her tusks could be used as a carjack!

SIR KILLALOT

The fearsome foe of Robot Wars might fancy a dangerous assignment as a James Bond-type **secret agent** (imagine him in a bow tie!) or even a baddie **actor** in a sci-fi film. However, it would be a lot funnier to see him brought down a peg or two by parking him outside an infants' school and making him work as a **lollipop lady**. If that wasn't humiliating enough, he could also earn a few pennies at the Tower of London showing tourists around in a **Beefeater** costume or inviting people to get a haircut as a **barber shop pole**!

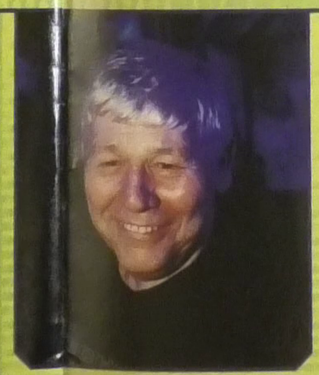
BRAIN SCAN

NAME **DEREK FOXWELL**
DATE OF BIRTH 06/07/45
OCCUPATION Head of Technical Department at TV21 Production Company
EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT
Degree in engineering and electronics/professional model maker

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ON RW INVOLVE?
I helped create the rules of the show, I advise the competitors on construction of their robots and issue technical sheets to help out the competitors. I also advise the producers about what damage the competitors' robots might do to house robots and the set, so we can always stay one jump ahead of them.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE SHOW?
I have been a model maker since the early 1970s and was approached by Steve Carsey, our executive producer, to build the robots for the pilot of Robot Wars. I built three robots, which were matched with three American robots. Our robots were undersized and underweight and we got a good thrashing!

WHAT COMON PROBLEMS DO ROBOTEERS HAVE?
The biggest problem is designing the robot before the weapon and going overweight. The best advice I can give competitors is to build a superb weapon and then build the drive mechanism around it.



"We got a good **thrashing!**"

WORKING ON RW – FUN OR HARD WORK?
It is very hard work, but there is also a great deal of job satisfaction. It takes a lot of skill on behalf of all the RW team to whittle it all down to a television show.

WHERE DO YOU SEE RW IN THE FUTURE?
I think we could look at amphibious robots with the battles taking place on land and in water.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF ENTERING A ROBOT YOURSELF?
I wouldn't be allowed, but I would love to!

>> RWM SUBSCRIPTIONS

DON'T GET IN A SPIN...

...GET RWM EVERY MONTH!

With Series 4 underway, why would you want to miss a single issue of behind the scenes exclusives, brilliant pictures and cool free gifts? Get Robot Wars Magazine delivered every month to your door, at the special price of £16.50 for 12 issues. That's right, you get 12 issues for the price of 11, and a free gift every issue. You don't even pay extra for postage! Fill in the coupon below now – or else!

Be sure you don't miss out! Fill in the form below (you can photocopy it if you don't want to cut up your mag) and send it to the address below by 10 October (if you want your subscription to start with issue 7) Or call our credit card hotline – details below.

Please send BBC Robot Wars Magazine to:
Reader's name _____
Address _____
_____ Postcode _____
Date of birth / /
Please send Robot Wars Magazine every month at a price of £16.50 for 12 issues. I enclose a cheque for £16.50 made payable to Robot Wars Magazine. Or pay by credit card (Visa, MasterCard or Access) or by debit card (Switch, Delta or Connect)
Please indicate your chosen method of payment:
Cheque ☐ Credit card ☐ Debit card ☐
Cheque/Card holder's Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms and initials) _____
Address _____
_____ Postcode _____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Valid from ☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐☐☐ Switch issue number ☐
Signature _____ Date _____
Completed forms should be sent to: BBC Robot Wars Subscriptions, PO Box 279, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8DE. Europe/Ireland rate: £26.00 for 12 issues. Rest of world rate: £36.80 for 12 issues.
Or call our credit card hotline on (01795) 414716 quoting code RW06

STATIC

RWM@BBC.CO.UK
ROBOT WARS MAGAZINE, ROOM A1130, BBC WORLDWIDE, 80 WOOD LANE, LONDON W12 0TT

LET'S TALK WARS!

MAILSHOT

Every letter we print receives a Robot Inventor's Handbook (worth £12.99) from Design Eye Publishing. With templates, nuts and bolts, you'll be beating Sir Killalot in no time at all!

>>from Ashleigh Powell
I've found a great way to read RWM in class. I did my school project on The History Of Robots, and in the section 'Robots In Entertainment' I put in a copy of RWM. What better entertainment? Even my teacher thought it was a good idea.

>Don't be surprised if teach holds onto your project for a long time – while they read the best mag around!

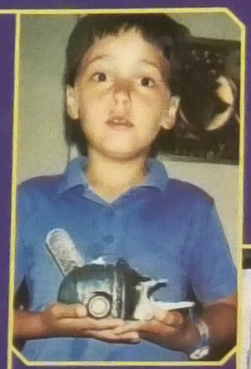
>>from Shahid Ali
Don't you think that new robot Refbot will get trashed by the House Robots and the contestants?
>Contestants might do well to steer clear of Refbot – unless they want to get sent off!

>>from A Vora
I think the presenters, the audience, and even the roboteers should be robots. That would be cool!

>We suppose you think it would be 'cool' if the RWM staff were robots too! Does not compute, does not compute...

>>from John Clarke
I thought you'd like to see my Matilda robot that my mum and dad made for me, out of a coconut, scraps of wood and car body filler.
>Who'd have thought of making a robot out of a coconut? If you enter it into the next wars, it's 'Bounty' win!

>>from Nathan Chidgey
I really wanted a RW cake for my birthday but there was nothing at the shops, so my mum made one for me. It tasted great.
>Hope you saved a slice for Dead Metal!



NUT of the month

>>from Craig Dalton
So far, I have managed to tape every series of RW onto my own tapes and every time my parents want to use my tapes to record their programmes I scream and shout at them not to, so now I have them up in my room where I can keep an eye on them.
>You could always leave a blank tape lying around, then when they tape over it, say it was your favourite episode of Robot Wars. Think how nice they'd have to be to you after that!

BIT-O-BOT

Which bit of which bot is this?

OUT OF CONTROL!

DR ZULU'S ROBOT HOSPITAL

Got a robot problem?
Then ask Team Diotoir's Zulu for advice!

>>Dear Doctor Zulu,
I've built a robot but I can't decide what name to give it. Do you have any suggestions?
Keith Roland
>Zulu says: After careful consideration, I came up with the name 'Toilet Bucket'.

>>Dear Doctor Zulu
I want to enter my robot 'King Krusha' on Robot Wars because I know it will win, but I am very nervous about appearing on TV. Can you give me some hints so I won't look stupid?
Li Wright
>Zulu says: Not look stupid? You can't even spell 'Crusher' so you must be stupid. I wouldn't even bother turning up at all, but if you do, wear a large paper bag over your head.

>>Dear Doctor Zulu
Does your team do any training before you appear of Robot Wars?
J. Cory
>Zulu says: Our training consists of press-ups, sit-ups, squat-thrusts, jump-jacks, a 5 mile run and ends with a two mile swim. After we have watched the local ladies athletic club doing all this we usually go for a few drinks and a curry.

Well that's it for now. Keep those problems coming in to RWM's e-mail or mail addresses. We do so like to help people. All the best from Dr Zulu and Nurse Pete.
Visit the Team Diotoir website at www.esatclear.ie/~feoras/diotoir

SYSTEM CHECK

Read the whole mag? Know your Chromalot without having to moan a lot? Then these questions should be simple [answers on the right]!

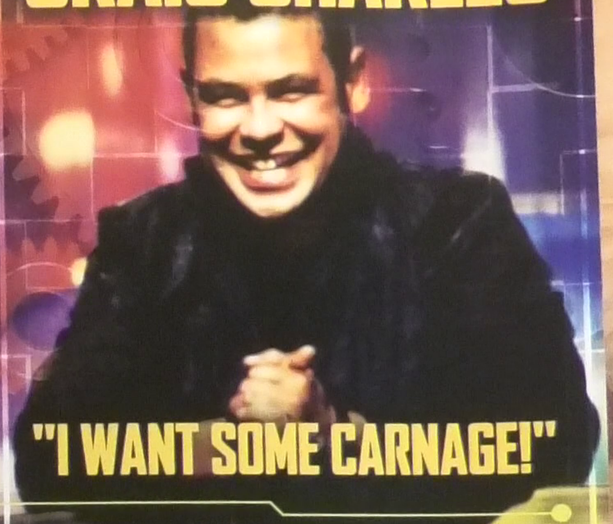
01 What are Sir Chromalot's cheerleaders called?
02 Who hosted Robot Mayhem?
03 Who duets with Sir K on his record?
04 What type of robot is Wheelosaurus?
05 What was the name of the robot Sir K trashed at the end of Robot Mayhem?

BIT-O-BOT
It's Hypno-Disc!

SYSTEM CHECK
1 The Chromalots
2 Andy Collins
3 Bobbobbe
4 An axlebot
5 Teddybot

NEXT ISSUE

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CRAIG CHARLES



"I WANT SOME CARNAGE!"

PUSSYCAT PROFILED:

MEOWWWWWW!

WITH GREAT ROBOT WARS FREE GIFT

RWM ISSUE 7 ON SALE 25-10-00

DON'T ARGUE WITH REFBOT!

ROBOT WARS
MAGAZINE